

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA FACE DEADLY FAMINE, WASHINGTON IS TOLD

Rural Districts in Both Empires Reported on Verge of Starvation, But Situation Is Better in Larger Cities.

U. S. Unable to Extend Aid to Civilian Sufferers Without Consent of Allies—Food Riots Suppressed by Francis Joseph's Troops.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Administration officials and diplomats representing foreign Governments have been informed that threatened famine in Germany and Austria has compelled the active steps adopted by Germany to procure food for her civil population.

This information is contained in confidential advices sent through United States representatives in Germany and Austria and others.

The reports permit little room to doubt that conditions in Germany and Austria are almost as bad as those in Poland and Belgium.

Outside of Vienna, Budapest and other Austro-Hungarian cities the drain on the local supplies of foodstuffs necessary to maintain the armies has been so steady for the last four months that starvation is reported to confront hundreds of thousands.

In Germany the conditions are described as not so terrifying as in some of the districts of Austria-Hungary. But even in districts of the German Empire remote from the larger cities, there is reported to be a steady and constant decrease of the necessities of life that cannot be replaced except from outside sources now closed.

Few instances of disorder resulting from the shortage of food come in the reports from Germany. But those describing the situation in Austria-Hungary make reference to some outbreaks on the part of the populace in several provinces, which the military and civil authorities have had to suppress by vigorous methods.

Any undertaking on the part of the United States or other neutral nations to relieve the increasing distress of the non-combatant population in Austria is said to be certain to provoke a protest from those allied in the war against the two countries.

RUSSIANS RENOV OFFENSIVE AT CARPATHIAN PASSES

Admit Bukovina Retreat; Maintain Hungary Foothold.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 19.

In the Carpathians, because of indications that the Austro-German attacks there are weakening, the Russian troops have in turn opened an offensive and have gained a number of successes with their counter attacks at Tucka, Wyskow and Noslowka. The Slav foothold at Stridnik in Hungary is maintained, according to today's official report.

GERMAN AIR RAIDERS FAIL IN ATTACK UPON BELFORT

Several Persons Killed by Bombs Dropped on Railway Station.

GENEVA, Switzerland, Feb. 19.—German aviators attempted to blow up the French forts at Belfort with bombs on Wednesday, but were driven off by the batteries there.

They later dropped three bombs upon the railway station near Mount Bealard. Several civilians and soldiers were killed, but small property damage was done. In an attempt to destroy the Viellard Iron Works at Meslay, which have been turned into a gun-manufacturing plant, the German aircraft dropped 50 bombs, but none of them caused serious damage.

GERMANS RETAKE TRENCHES ALONG ARRAS-LILLE ROAD

Hill No. 600 in the Vosges Carried by Storm.

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—The recapture of trenches and the road from Arras to Lille, which had been won by the French on February 13, is announced in today's report of the General Staff.

The report also claims the capture of Hill No. 600, in the Vosges, which was taken by storm, and the complete repulse of French assaults near Comblès, east of Verdun.

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA

Vessels Arriving Today

Vessels Cleared

Steamships to Arrive

Table with columns: Name, From, Sailed, Arrive. Lists various shipping companies and routes.

Steamships to Leave

OFFICIAL BULLETINS

GERMAN

On the road from Arras to Lille the French have been thrown out of the section of a German trench occupied by them on February 13. In Champagne renewed attacks of strong French forces completely broke down yesterday under the German artillery fire. There are 100 additional prisoners in the hands of the Germans.

Small portions of German trenches taken by the French on February 16 were partly reconquered.

In the French attack upon Boureuilles and Vaucousses, already reported, five officers and 479 uninjured men were taken prisoners.

East of Verdun, near Comblès, the French, after a short-lived success, were repulsed with heavy losses.

In the Vosges the Germans stormed Hill No. 600, south of Lunse, and took two machine guns.

The Germans yesterday occupied Tautzen. The engagements of the pursuing Germans with the retreating Russians northwest of Grodno and north of Auchawola are near their end.

The engagement northwest of Kolno still continues. South of Myszyniec the Germans drove the Russians out of several villages in Poland.

North of the Vistula, on both sides of the Skwa and each side of Racine there were minor engagements yesterday.

From that section of Poland south of the Vistula nothing new is reported.

FRENCH

There is nothing important to report since the communique of last evening. The night was calm.

There were artillery combats of some violence in the valley of the Aisne and in the sector of Rheims.

In the region of Verthes all the positions conquered by us remain in our hands.

Between the Argonne and the Meuse, at Pont-des-Quatre-Enfants, we captured a bomb thrower.

In the Vosges we repulsed two infantry attacks to the north of Wissembach, in the region of Bonhomme. In addition we strengthened and organized our positions, proceeding methodically to the north and to the south of the Sudel farm.

BRITISH

The enemy displayed considerable activity during the last few days southeast of Ypres. The fighting on this part of the line was very severe at times. On two points the enemy succeeded in occupying some of our trenches, but was driven out by counter-attacks. At one place 20 Germans were left dead upon the field.

One of their trenches was blown up and many prisoners taken. On the night of February 15-16 an attack was made against our line north of the Ypres canal. On the following night a similar attack was made against our lines near Neuve Chapelle. Both were easily repulsed with losses to the enemy. All the ground recently gained has been strengthened and held without difficulty. South of the Lys our troops have dealt very effectively with the enemy's artillery, whose fire has greatly increased recently.

RUSSIAN

On the front from the Niemen to the Vistula, fighting continued on February 17. It was of a particularly desperate character in the region of Augustowo and also in the region from Serpez to Plock.

In the Carpathians the Russians repulsed a series of persistent attacks on the Hungarian front at Svidnik.

AUSTRIAN

In Bukovina the enemy has been driven beyond the Pruth. Czernowitz was occupied by our troops Wednesday afternoon. The Russian flag parted from there in the direction of Novosilica.

(Novosilica is in Russia, at the junction of the Pruth and Rakitna Rivers.)

Stubborn fighting continues in the Carpathians. All the Russian attacks have been beaten off with heavy losses to their troops.

On the Carpathian front from Dukla Pass to the vicinity of Wyszskow, the situation is generally unchanged.

By our occupation of Kolomea the Russians took an important vantage point.

CZAR LOSES 75 MILES IN BUKOWINA



With the capture of Czernowitz, the Bukovina capital, by the Austro-German forces, the Russians have lost 75 miles in the crownland. Driven across the Pruth River, the Slavs are retreating eastward to Novosilica, in Russia proper.

GERMAN PRESS CAUSTIC ON U. S. "UNNEUTRALITY"

"Yelping Pack of Yankee es," Exclaims Die Post. "Whoever Enters Danger Zone Must Expect to Perish," Says Inspi red Lokal Anzeiger.

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—Germany's reply to the United States is indorsed today by all the Berlin newspapers, which also continue their criticism of American "unneutrality." This is based on the pointed statement by the Government that the Allies are being furnished with weapons and munitions of war by American concerns.

Die Post is particularly caustic in its comment on Americans, saying: "When something does not suit the Yankee's business, they are accustomed to raising as a threatening bugaboo as great a sabbat-rattling noise as possible. They calculate on the State thus alarmed creeping promptly to heel. If this effect is not produced, if the threatened State pays no attention and shows it cannot be bluff, the yelping pack of Yankees soon quiet down."

Count von Reventlow, naval critic of the Tages Zeitung, shows more than his usual bitterness today. He says in his article that "America is trying to speak to Germany in an altogether unsuitable way. It has grown accustomed to dealing with Mexican pretenders."

The Vossische Zeitung says editorially: "The new German measures on the sea are directed against two allies of Great Britain. One is the American traffic in arms; the other is starvation. We need no American arms to struggle with the ally starvation. We contest with a firm consciousness that we shall pull through even if not a single grain of wheat should reach us, while Great Britain through our blockade system must experience most severe damage."

The Lokal Anzeiger, which reflects official opinion, comments on the situation: "February 18 was the beginning of a defensive fight by a people threatened with starvation. A people which must fight for its existence must and will push aside all considerations as to third parties' attitude toward us. All considerations have already been pushed aside. The fight we are entering must be fought with all recklessness or not at all. Deeply rooted in our people is a humble conviction that victory lies in God's hands. Difficult will be the fight, perhaps, and long also, for the enemy will not shrink from any means in order to frustrate our efforts. There is no intention on the part of the German Government to wage a commercial war against neutral shipping, but whoever enters the danger zone must expect to perish therein."

"We have not had the same consideration as our English brothers. 'Not a word has been said about English and Japanese violations of Chinese neutrality. 'Have we protested against Americans being dragged from neutral ships because they had German names? Have we protested against England's policy to starve German noncombatants? Have we protested against England declaring the North Sea a war zone? 'No. But when Germany did the same thing we dispatched a stiff note to Berlin; a milder one to England. 'The threat of an arms embargo would quickly bring the mistress of the seas to terms."

BARTHOLOLD SCOLDS U. S. FOR INJUSTICE TO GERMANY

Representative Again Raises Demand for "Honest Neutrality."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Declaring Germany is not getting justice from the United States, demanding "honest neutrality" and accusing American newspapers of printing "vile calumnies" upon the fatherland, Representative Barthold asserted in the House today:

"Should the United States ever become embroiled in war again the Germans of this country would rally to the American flag.

JAPAN DEMANDS FULL POLITICAL CONTROL OF CHINA, SAYS DIPLOMAT

Tokio's Intention to Make Oriental Republic a Protectorate Reported to Have Full Indorsement of British Government.

LONDON, Feb. 19.

Japan has demanded that the Chinese Government that complete political control be given her in China. This was learned from a leading member of the diplomatic corps today. He declared that Japan's action has the complete indorsement of the British and asserted that Japan intends to make China a protectorate, in which the Japanese will have supreme control, commercially as well as politically.

Among the demands recently made by Japan upon China, he said, was the following: The revelation of the real China-Japanese situation is of the utmost importance to the United States. It will be recalled that four Powers participated in the formation of a syndicate to finance China. They were England, France, Germany and Austria.

The United States was to have been a partner in this syndicate through a banking syndicate, but the termination of so-called "dollar diplomacy" caused a withdrawal of the official American interests, but, nevertheless, large funds were actually subscribed by American financial concerns acting through English bankers. J. P. Morgan & Co. and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. subscribed. It is understood, \$20,000,000, of which \$16,000,000 was designed for the development of Manchuria, of which Japan demands virtually complete possession.

PEKIN, Feb. 19.—The Chinese Foreign Office announced today that negotiations with Japan over the appointment of a Japanese military adviser are proceeding in a satisfactory manner. Details of negotiations, however, are being kept secret.

It is learned that the Japanese confiscated \$5,000,000 at Ting-Tao when that place was captured from the Germans. It is charged by the Japanese that the German Government property had been fraudulently transferred to civilians and 70 such pieces of property were taken over by the Japanese War Office.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Until the demands made by Japan upon China are fully digested by State Department officials no representations will be made by the United States by either nation. The course of the United States has not yet been decided upon, it was stated today.

The chief fact in the situation, it is believed, is that Japan intends to take a dominant place in all matters relating to Oriental politics and intends to compete the United States, as well as all European nations, to recognize this.

Anxious over suggestions of a Japanese threat against China's integrity, the Standard Oil Company, with vast Chinese interests, sought through the State Department today for information concerning possible danger. The company was told the Department was thus far possessed of none to justify alarm.

DUTCH OBEY TEUTON ORDER

Liners Will Sail Outside Blockaded Route.

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—A dispatch from Amsterdam states that all Dutch liners bound for America will hereafter use the route north of Iceland recommended in the German blockade decree.

All sailings from Rotterdam and Flushing for London have been canceled.

LEASH ON WAR GAME NO LONGER BINDING

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—Paragraphs in Germany's note to the United States which aim to justify the war zone decree concerning British waters, and reiterate its firm stand on the points involved, follow: "Until now Germany has scrupulously observed valid international rules regarding naval warfare. 'The German Government feels itself obliged to point out to the greatest emphasis that a traffic in arms, estimated at many hundreds of millions, is being carried on between American firms and Germany's enemies. They (the neutrals) have the perfect right, which they unfortunately do not exercise, to cease contraband trade, especially in arms, with Germany's enemies. 'Germany trusts that the neutrals who have so far submitted to the disadvantageous consequences of Great Britain's hunger war in silence, or merely in registering a protest, will display toward Germany, now a smaller measure of toleration, even if German measures, like those of Great Britain, present new terrors of naval warfare."

200 SHIPS FROM U. S. BOUND FOR WAR ZONE

Cargoes Worth Millions Headed for Forbidden Area.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—From the chief Atlantic ports, exclusive of New York, which has 25, there are, in round numbers, 170 vessels now bound for foreign destinations which compel them to enter the new German war zone and subject them to the peril of submarine attack. Their cargoes are worth millions.

Included in this number are two regular passenger carriers from Philadelphia. The Pretorian, another passenger vessel, sailed yesterday from Boston for Glasgow.

Vessels now on the way from Southern ports carry huge cotton cargoes. From New Orleans 30 ships, at least, are bound across the Atlantic, laden with cotton, provisions, horses and mules. The shipments from New Orleans alone are valued at millions of dollars.

Baltimore has sent large general cargoes. It is estimated that 41 vessels are now on the way to the war zone from that port.

FRAUD IN U. S. FOODSHIP PLANS, REPORT IN ENGLAND

Government Said to Be Investigating the Charge.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The United States Government, according to a report from an authoritative source, is investigating the charge that the cargo of the American steamship Wilhelmina, now in charge of a British prize crew, is really destined for the German population of Germany.

It is said that the charge emanated from British sources. The investigation is believed to have been in progress for a week or more.

The charge is viewed by officials here with the greatest seriousness.

GERMAN U-2 WINS LAURELS

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—The German submarine U-2 which sank the British warship Pathfinder and also some British merchant ships in the Irish Sea, has returned to the base at Wilhelmshaven. The submarine's commander, Captain Lieutenant Hirsengen, has been decorated with the Iron Cross for bravery.

ZEPPELIN HOLDS UP DUTCH STEAMSHIP

Patrolling Dirigible Trains Guns and Halts Neutral Vessel in North Sea.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—A dispatch to the Daily Express from Rotterdam describes how Zeppelins are being employed in patrol operations. It says the latest steamship Helena last Tuesday was intercepted in the North Sea by the Zeppelin L-5, which trained guns on the vessel and ordered her to stop.

A description of the holding up of the Dutch vessel was overheard here as follows: "The Helena was overhauled by Zeppelin L-5 at 10 a. m. The morning was clear and in the evening the airship was seen at a great altitude approaching from the direction of the coast and landing on a schooner in a rough sea. A few directly over the Helena, whose crew distinctly saw 15 or 20 persons in its gangway. The men were connected by a covering gangway. The men wore dark, close-fitting tunics, caps like hoods and goggles.

"They watched the Helena through glasses in a kind of turret in the fore part of the airship. The crew of a quacking gun were at their stations and a great naval ensign flew at the stern of the gas bag.

CREW LOST WHEN MINE SINKS NORWEGIAN SHIP

The Nordcap Hits Explosive in Baltic Sea.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The Norwegian steamer Nordcap, according to the Exchange Telegraph Company's Copenhagen correspondent, has struck a mine in the Baltic Sea and is foundered. All her crew perished. The Nordcap was a steamship of 322 tons and was owned by Wrangell & Co. of Haugesund.

The crews of one Danish and three Norwegian ships at Aarhus, Denmark, refused to sail for England and left their ships.

ARMIES BATTLE TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN FLANDERS

Neither Side Able to Retain Advantages, Gen. French Reports.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—That the fighting along the entire front held by the British armies in Flanders is very severe and that neither side seems able as yet to retain advantages gained, was admitted in another report from General French made public today. It revealed the operations up to yesterday and paid high tribute to the gallantry of his troops, who are under constant fire.

The blowing up of a German trench southeast of Ypres, where a number of prisoners were taken by the British, is reported.

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Advertisement for HEPPE pianos. Features a large illustration of a Stroud Pianola and text describing its quality and price. Includes the slogan 'A Genuine Pianola for the price of an "imitation"'. Lists various models and prices, such as Steinway Pianola (grand) \$2100 and Weber Pianola (grand) 1800. Mentions 'The Aeolian Family' and 'The Stroud Pianola \$550'. Contact information for C. J. HEPPE & SON, 1117-1119 Chestnut Street, 6th and Thompson Streets.

Advertisement for Serge Suitings by CLAY & MARTIN. Price \$35. Order in February. Delivery any time up to June 1st. Call and see the 1915 Serge-samples gladly given. JONES 1116 Walnut St. Custom Tailoring Only.

Advertisement for SEASHORE. Saturday Noon to Monday Night at SEASHORE. WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY falling on Monday, allows a fine week-end trip to Seashore. Fast Trains from Chestnut St. and South St. Ferries FOR Atlantic City, Ocean City, Stone Harbor, Wildwood or Cape May. One Dollar Excursions Every Sunday. Leave Chestnut St. and South Street Ferries 7:30 A. M.